

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 56

May 2009

No. 5



Calendar

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|-----------------|---|----------------|--|
| Fri., Apr. 24 | Film Soc., <i>My Man Godfrey</i> , Town Hall, 7 pm, soup kitchen food | Sat., May 9 | Green Day, Kensington Town Hall, 10 am–1 pm (see p 8) |
| Sat., Apr. 25 | Farmers Market, Penn Place | Mon., May 11 | Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm |
| Sun., Apr. 26 | Annual Weed Warrior day, Porcupine Woods, 10 am–2 pm (p 6) | Tues., May 12 | Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm |
| Thurs., Apr. 30 | Games and Tea, Town Hall, 1:30–4:30 pm (see p 5); Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm | Sat., May 16 | Studio tours, 11 am–5 pm (p 4) |
| Sat., May 2 | GIVES collection, Penn Place lobby, 9 am–1 pm; GPES Spring Fair, behind the school, 10 am–2 pm (see p 4) | Sun., May 17 | Musicale supporting music scholarship, 4 pm, Town Hall; studio tours, 11 am–5 pm (p 4) |
| Sun., May 3 | Reception, Art at Penn Place, 2–4 pm (see p 4); Pre-election get-together, the Kellers', 3–5 pm (see p 8) | Thurs., May 21 | GP Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm |
| Mon., May 4 | Election (see candidates' statements, p 9), Post Office lobby, 7 am–7:30 pm; Reception, swearing-in, 9:30 pm, Town Hall | Sat., May 23 | Coffeehouse, Town Hall, 8 pm |
| Wed., May 6 | GP Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm | Mon., May 25 | No trash collection, Memorial Day; Progressive Dinner deadline (see p 5) |
| Thurs., May 7 | Spring membership meeting, GP Swimming Pool Assoc., Town Hall, 7:30 pm | Wed., May 27 | Citizens Association meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm: White Flint development |
| | | Thurs., June 4 | Photography show, "My Neighbor's Garden," Penn Place (p 4) |
| | | Sat., June 6 | Reception for Anne Atlee, Penn Place, 11 am (p 4) |

Council Passes Budget

With two Councilmembers absent (for legitimate reasons), the Council nonetheless had the minimum number of members needed for a quorum, and the April meeting proceeded

smartly along. Mike Henley was granted a provisional demolition permit contingent on the replatting of his property. Openings were noted

(continued next page)

Garrett Park Citizens Association
Garrett Park, Maryland 20896-0456

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
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Permit No. 2

P.O. Boxholder
Garrett Park, Maryland 20896

(continued from previous page)

on several committees in town. If you would like to become a member of the Setback Advisory or Parks and Open Space committees, or act as a town representative to the county's Martin Luther King Day Committee, please call the Town Office.

The Mayor reported that he and Hans Wegner attended a meeting of the Coalition of Citizens Associations representing areas affected by the proposed White Flint development (see Mayor's Letter, p 8). The Mayor got the impression that residents of these areas may have a greater than usual opportunity to influence the thinking of the County Planning Board. One fact that came out was that 8,900 new residents are expected to move in when the development is completed. Supposedly the plan doesn't affect anything below Edson Lane. (Oh, really?)

The Mayor also related that there is ongoing discussion about the land swap for the Nursery School/Community Center building and part of the Penn Place basketball court. The Nursery School will be presenting the plans soon.

After explanations from the Town Administrator, the Council passed the budget for next year. (See Town Administrator's Notes, p 3.)

The elections are coming soon for Town Council—there are three seats open and five people running. A contested election!

Mary Moyer

Host Families Needed

The Washington-Ireland Program (WIP) for Service and Leadership (www.wiprogram.org) and the South African Washington Intern Program (www.sawip.org) are seeking host families for university students from Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, and South Africa. These programs bring together students from postconflict societies to aid in peaceful resolution of historic divides. The WIP students arrive June 7 and depart August 2, and the South African students arrive June 14 and depart July 24. If you are interested, please call 202-772-3824 or e-mail office@wiprogram.org for more information.

Montgomery Child Care Association (MCCA)
Garrett Park

Summer Adventures 2009

Open to children ages 4-12
Camp hours: 7 am-6 pm
\$225 a week

June 22 to August 27

located next to
Garrett Park
Elementary

All weeks available
Call 301-946-6192
garrettpark@mccaedu.org

Citizens Association News

On March 25, the Garrett Park Citizens Association hosted a meeting to accept nominations for the upcoming Town Council election. Three seats are up for election, and four people were nominated at the meeting; one candidate was later nominated by petition. (See candidates' statements, p 9).

On April 22, the Citizens Association held a Candidates' Forum for the nominated candidates to give a brief summary of their views and answer questions posed by attendees.

Upcoming meetings. On May 27 at 8 pm in the Town Hall, the Citizens Association will host a meeting to discuss our citizens' positions on various aspects of the White Flint development project.

- Upcoming events.*
- *Pooch Parade—Early June.* The Citizens Association will hold the annual Pooch Parade and Contest in early June at the basketball courts by Penn Place. The event is free and open to dog owners of all ages. We will update you with the date on the listserv and in the next Bugle.
 - *July 4 parade.* The Citizens Association would like to hear your best ideas for the theme for this year's July 4 parade. Please e-mail your ideas to Katie Mitchell at katiemitchell@verizon.net or put your suggestions in the box that will be in the post office in early May. Also, we need volunteers to help at the parade and afterward. Please e-mail Leslie Bethke-Pope at lbethke02@yahoo.com if you are available.

Garrett Park Listserv. To join this electronic forum, which allows neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join.

Questions or comments for the Citizens Association? If so, please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or e-mail Chris Strong.

The Garrett Bugle is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the Bugle is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

Citizens Association Officers:

President: Chris Strong

Co-Vice-Presidents: Mario Grande and Cathy Rinzel

Treasurer: Todd Harris

Secretary: Lara Hines

Members at large: Leslie Bethke-Pope, Mike Grieb, Cathy Mitchell

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Out-of-town subscriptions cost \$15 (first class) or \$13 (bulk mail). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to Bugle staff or by e-mail through the town Web site: www.garrettpark-md.gov/submitBugleArticle.php. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Administrator Notes

Town Elections. Monday, May 4, is election day. Three Council seats are up for election, and five candidates are running: Marian Green, Jack Mandel (incumbent), Pam Morgan, Chris Petito, and Phil Schulp (see candidates’ statements, p 9). Polling will take place in the public lobby on the lower level of Penn Place (the post office). Polls will be open from 7 am to 7:30 pm. If you need an emergency absentee ballot, call the Town Office at 301-933-7488 to have one brought to you, or send someone with a signed written request. Absentee and emergency absentee ballots must be received by the Judges of Election by 7:30 pm on election day.

At 9:30 pm in the Town Hall, a reception will take place at which results should be announced (probably around 10 to 10:30 pm). The Mayor will then swear in the newly elected Councilmembers.

Fiscal Year 2010 Budget. At the regular April meeting, the Council adopted the FY 2010 Operating and Capital Budget, copies of which are available at the Town Office and will be posted on the town Web site. The FY 2010 budget maintains a constant yield tax rate of 19.2¢ per \$100 of value, and anticipates a decrease in operating revenues to \$945,550 (a 13 percent decrease compared to this year’s budget). Transfers from available funds in the town’s treasury in the amount of \$37,125 will bring the total budgeted receipts to \$982,675, a decrease of 9 percent from the FY 2009 total.

These receipts will fund \$877,675 in operating expenses (down 16 percent from FY 2009). The transfer to the capital program is increased to \$55,000 (up 25 percent from the current FY 2009 budget). It is hoped that when the books are closed on FY 2009 in the late summer, the town will have sufficient unobligated funds in the treasury to continue the investment in the multi-year Capital Improvement Plan, which has been delayed somewhat by the current uncertain economic situation. Total operating reserves will be increased by \$50,000 for a total of \$175,000.

Town’s Financial Situation. Given the current recession and the continuing news regarding declining federal, state, county, and town revenues, it is to be expected that residents will be concerned about the current and future status of town finances. I have prepared a more detailed recitation of the town’s current financial status and background information; it is posted at Penn Place and on the town’s Web site (www.garrettpark-md.gov). A little history: when I arrived in September 2002, the town had committed to the reconstruction of Penn Place, a substantial rehabilitation of Weymouth Street and Kenilworth Avenue, the new town street lights, and a significant contribution to the cost of reconstructing Strathmore Avenue. This resulted in the planned drawing down of town reserves to essentially zero over a period of 1 or 2 years, depending on the length of time it took to complete these projects.

Some of you will recall the concerns about this drawdown of reserves expressed in discussions regarding adjustments to the FY 2003 budget and the adoption of the FY 2004 budgets. At that time, the Mayor and Council pointed out that both budgets anticipated positive cash flows, and that if future budgets were crafted in the same manner, the town’s reserves would be rebuilt. A policy of appropriating an operational reserve was adopted at that time, as well.

As of March 31, 2009, the town had \$580,400 cash on hand, held in the town’s checking accounts and the Montgomery County Pooled Investment Fund. We project a further \$133,700 in revenue and \$243,500 in expenditure through June 30. We project a “Free Cash” balance at the end of the fiscal year of \$289,407. “Free Cash” comprises unobligated funds in the town’s treasury—that is, funds against which no appropriation has been made.

So, in the years since September 2002, the town has been able to provide residents with continually improving levels of service on a day-to-day basis, make substantial capital investments, establish a \$125,000 operating reserve, cut the town’s property tax rate, and still generate a surplus of over one-quarter of a million dollars. In the FY 2010 budget, the operating reserve is raised to \$175,000, so the combined cash reserves of the town available will be in the neighborhood of \$320,000. Add in the budgeted operating contingency of \$30,000 and you have \$350,000, or 36 percent of the total adopted FY 2010 budget.

The FY 2010 budget is conservative, projecting a 13 percent reduction in revenues and a 16 percent reduction in operating expenditures. It is designed to produce a neutral to positive cash flow so that as we face what we project to be the most difficult years of FY 2011 and FY 2012, we will have adequate reserves to support the current level of services provided to residents. We also expect to have adequate resources for modest capital expenditures and the capacity to provide matching funds for any grant opportunities that may come our way through federal and state stimulus programs.

All in all, we believe that the town is in sound financial condition, and should emerge from these hard times in excellent shape, ready to take advantage of the improving economic situation that will arrive in the next two to five years.

As always, if you have questions or concerns about the budget or any other town issue, please call the Town Office at 301-933-7488 or e-mail us at garrett-park@comcast.net.

Ted Pratt, Town Administrator/
Clerk-Treasurer

Visit Garrett Park’s Web site:
www.garrettpark-md.gov

Art at Penn Place

The next exhibit at Penn Place will be of photographs by Vickie Baily. Beginning Sunday, May 3, and scheduled through June 7, the exhibition is entitled “Early Retrospective.” An opening reception will take place on Sunday, May 3, from 2 to 4 pm, at which there will be a drawing for a door prize of one matted photograph (winner’s choice). (Drop by on your way to the Kellers’ pre-election event!)

Vickie Baily, who has lived in Garrett Park for two years, is the new Chair of the Garrett Park Art Committee. Vicky writes: “My life with photography has always been something that I did by the seat of my pants, but always did. The summer I taught in nursery school, I made the money for photo paper and chemicals by taking candid pictures of the kids for their parents. The year I spend teaching in Sierra Leone I didn’t see a single slide until the year was over, but I came home to hundreds I’d shot on faith. When I married Martin, who already had three children, my photos helped us become family to each other—likewise when he and I added another daughter to the mix, and likewise again when she added a beagle.

“Last summer our first grandchild was born. I still use photography to document and enrich our lives, but now, in the silent house, I mostly shoot and print pictures just to please myself. The trees, trestles, and trash of Rock Creek Park, the Garrett Park train, backyard wildlife, sunlight on my kitchen wall—these are my current and continuing obsessions.”

Please note: the Baltimore Watercolor Society will hold its annual exhibition at the Strathmore Mansion from April 11 to May 23. The watercolor paintings by members of this society are unusually fine and, in the words of the Michelin guide, “worth a detour.”

Berton Zbar

My Neighbor’s Garden

On June 4, photographer Vickie Baily will be mounting a show in Penn Place of photographs she has taken of Anne Atlee’s garden—many of them shot from Vickie’s own side of the fence. Vickie says: “I am taking down my solo show ‘Early Retrospective’ a few days early in order to celebrate the extraordinary garden and gardener I moved in next to when I moved to Garrett Park. I have learned more about gardening from Anne Atlee in these two years than in all the years of my life together. She has also continued the generous tradition she began when Pat Rye and Bill Spinard lived here: of handing gifts of plants and cuttings and even full-sized shrubs across the fence. This exhibit is my way of saying thank you.” Vickie is joined by Anne’s daughter, Diane Beverly, and friend, Barbara Jackson, in wishing Anne a happy 85th birthday. They are holding a reception on June 6 at 11 am in the Penn Place art space and inviting town residents to bring notes, cards, or photographs for Anne. Perhaps she has shared plants and gardening tips with you, too!

Art Studio Tour

Artists of Kensington and Garrett Park will open their studios to the public for a spring tour on Saturday and Sunday, May 16 and 17, from 11 am to 5 pm. Working in a variety of media, the artists will include painters, sculptors, printmakers, potters, and photographers. Artists will be on hand to answer questions and the artwork on display will be available for purchase.

Two Garrett Park artists are represented on this tour, Robert LeMar and Martha Seigel, at 10926 Montrose. Maps and information on all the artists will be available on the table at the Garrett Park Post Office. *Questions?* Call Martha Seigel at 301-946-5388, or visit the tour’s Web site, www.kensingtongarrettparkstudios.com

GPES

Kindergarten orientation takes place on Thursday, April 23, and Friday, April 24. Children who will be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2009, are eligible to attend next year. Call the office (301-929-2170) to get on the list. Kindergarten attendance is mandatory.

Used toner cartridges are being collected to be recycled and raise money (\$1 per cartridge) for the school. Bring them to the office; any size will be taken with thanks.

The new school plans are coming along nicely. Some things have changed (drop-offs, bus routes, etc.), but we just may be ready to start the work on time. We still need funds to get the same size stage as the current building. The Foundation is looking for ways to raise money before construction starts. One possibility is having a reunion of all alumni, college age and above, in the fall to

see the building as it is now and review the plans, which we hope will be complete by then. There may even be an opportunity to buy commemorative bricks, the way we did for Penn Place, during the reunion and by mail. All this will be planned during the summer vacation. Stay tuned.

The annual Garrett Park Elementary School Spring Fair will be held behind the school Saturday, May 2, from 10 am to 2 pm, rain or shine. There will be a moonbounce, carnival games, a plant sale, used toy sale, and a bake sale!

Mary Moyer

Remember your loved ones with a fine oil or pastel portrait by Robert LeMar.

For an example of Robert’s work, please see a photo of his portrait of the President on the GP bulletin board.

301-962-7451 | rleamar@verizon.net | www.rleamar.com/portraits

Afternoon of Games and Tea

At our March 8 “All Community Gathering,” one of the requests was for more social opportunities for seniors, including intergenerational events.

We hope residents of all ages who will be available on Thursday afternoon, April 30, 1:30 to 4 pm, will bring their favorite games for an afternoon of socializing at the Town Hall. Bring Scrabble, Boggle, Rummikub, Sorry, cards, chess, checkers, or any other game you have and want to bring to enjoy with a friend or neighbor. (Bring a friend or neighbor with you, as well!) As the weather warms, we’ll also be able to play lawn games like badminton in the beautiful back garden. If successful, these afternoons will take place the last Thursday of every month, with refreshments!

Please call Elizabeth Henley in the Garrett Park Town Office at 301-933-7488 if you’d like a ride or can offer one.

Seniors, Did You Know...?

Regency Cab is offering free rides for Montgomery County seniors 70 and older—especially helpful for those on tight budgets. One hundred free cab rides per month (of up to 10 miles) are available countywide on a first-come, first-served basis. You must make reservations 24 to 72 hours in advance (Monday to Friday, 7 am to 5 pm). Rides are available at any hour, and each direction counts as one trip; however, the meter will run, and round trips that *total* less than 10 miles are also counted as one trip and are free if the wait is less than 15 minutes.

Passengers must show proof of age and sign a receipt at the end of the trip. Driver tips are optional. (Regency reimburses its drivers for the trips.) President David Mohebbi says, “It’s Regency’s way of saying thanks to its patrons, and a way of giving back to the community during tough economic times.” Ask for Vicky or Mike at Regency’s main number: 301-990-9000.

Green Again

The honors go to Jean and Michael Starr of the sledding hill for this month’s contribution to our green banner fund. Last October they sent us their check. Thank you, thank you very much.

We have received enough “green” money to keep us going for the rest of this year and into January 2010. If you want to contribute to the “greening” of this little paper, \$39 will get you the pleasure of knowing that you are helping with the printing costs. Mail a check made out to the GP Citizens Association to Box 98, and you will earn my eternal gratitude!

Anyone have a nomination for a Grand Marshall of our July 4th parade? Or a theme idea? Send either, or both, to Box 456 (Citizens Association).

Mary Moyer

2009 Progressive Dinner

All adult residents are invited to participate in the Garrett Park Women’s Club annual Progressive Dinner on Saturday, June 27. We will meet at the Town Hall at 5 pm for appetizers and small group assignments for the successive meal courses (salad and main courses). After dinner, all will return to Town Hall at 8:45 pm for dessert. Participants will be assigned as couples, singles, or even triplets. (Please invite an unattached neighbor to go along with you!) Participants can serve as salad or dinner hosts (offering your home to assigned guests) or provide food for one of the other courses. Dinner hosts also may be asked to provide a portion of the dinner course.

We would love for you to consider serving as a host, particularly if you have not done so before. Please volunteer early if you can serve as a *salad* or *dinner* host. We will make every effort to accommodate all types and sizes of houses. Include your top three preferences below for *salad* or *dinner/main host*, or *preferred dish provided*. Please return your form by Monday, May 25, as event organizers need adequate time to line up *host house* volunteers and make final arrangements.



I/we would like to participate in the 2008 Progressive Dinner on Saturday, June 27.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Contact e-mail: _____

Choose your top three preferences from these eight options, indicating first, second, and third choices:

_____ Provide appetizer at Town Hall (for 16 to 20)

_____ Host salad at my home (for 10 to 16)

_____ Host main course at my house (for 8 to 14)

_____ Host vegetarian main (for 10 to 12)

_____ Special needs? _____

_____ Provide salad (for 12 to 16)

_____ Provide vegetarian main course (for 10 to 12)

_____ Provide meat main course (for 10 to 12)

_____ Provide dessert, Town Hall (for 16 to 20)

Cost is \$10 per person. Please return form to Garrett Park Progressive Dinner, Box 494, Garrett Park, MD 20896. Make checks payable to Garrett Park Women’s Club.

Questions? Contact Kay Austin or Jean Horan.
E-mail subject line: GPWC Progressive Dinner

Deadline for registration:
Monday, May 25, please!

Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ At this moment, Bradley Shidler, son of Barbara, is home in Little Compton, Rhode Island, after a two month stay in the hospital.
- ♪ Some people in town (*Bugle* editor Barbara Collier, for one) have unearthed interesting "finds" while digging in their yards. Have you? If you want to display yours and perhaps have an expert try to add to your knowledge of them, contact Marian.Green.
- ♪ Irma Plavnieks, of Strathmore Avenue, died on March 10. She is survived by children Ivars, Andris, and Erik Plavnieks, six grandchildren, and one great-grandson. Our condolences to her family.
- ♪ Ex-Garrett Parker Alan Austin died March 7 in Charlottesville, Virginia. He is survived by wife Eleanor, daughters Jennifer Luna of Bethesda and Sara Austin of New York City, and two stepchildren. His first wife Judith died in 1997. There was a memorial service on April 4 in Charlottesville.
- ♪ From ex-postmaster Greg Spalding and wife Karen we received the following: "I've taken a job with the Air Force at Ellsworth AFB in the Non-appropriated Funds Accounting Office... Karen is working with Youth and Family Services in Rapid City. Jim lives in Rockville and is trying for a career with the Secret Service. Our cats are prospering and so far the economy is withstanding the downturn fairly well." We wish them well and continued success in their "retirement."
- ♪ Former Garrett Parker Dr. John Wrench died on February 27, 2009, at the age of 97. A long-time resident of Strathmore Avenue, he moved to Frederick in 1974. He is remembered for carrying out the value of pi to more than 1,000 digits in 1948 using a gear-driven calculating device. In 1961, with the help of an IBM 7090 computer and another mathematician, he got it to 100,265 digits, earning a place in the Guinness Book of records. He is survived by his wife Connie and daughter Paula Weston of Sheridan, Wyoming.
- ♪ Congratulations to Jeremy's Angels! Garrett Park's 6th grade girls' basketball team was the winner of this year's Montgomery County Recreation Department's basketball tournament. The team finished the season with a record of 11-0 and have now amassed an impressive 26-1 record over the last three years! Way to go!
- ♪ Mary Moyer spent a pleasant two days visiting Joan "Winnie" Keene Smith at her home in Cranbury, New Jersey. Joan used to live on Kenilworth Avenue in the 50s and has kept in touch with Garrett Parkers such as Anita Woodwell (in Wales) and Joyce Reynolds Kurth, who met up with Chris Woodwell, Susan Kizer, and John Lamb last summer.
- ♪ From the PO: Guess what? On May 11, stamp rates will be going up again. They warned you to buy the "Forever" stamps some time ago. They still have a lot on hand. Who knows when the next rate hike will be?

Weed Warrior Day

Please join members of the Arboretum Committee on Sunday, April 26, from 10 am until 2 pm for the annual Weed Warrior day in Porcupine Woods. You can help the committee members rid Porcupine Woods of invasive nonnative species and by doing so, provide the native species with a healthier living environment. Feel free to show up for as long as you are able. Young children are encouraged to join in on the fun as well. Dress appropriately for the weather. However, long pants and long-sleeved shirts are recommended. Light refreshments will be provided to replenish the mind and body. If you have any questions, please call Keith Mayhew.

Montgomery Child Care Association (MCCA)
Garrett Park

Summer Adventures 2009

Open to children ages 4-12
Camp hours: 7 am-6 pm
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June 22 to August 27

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Would the Founders Approve?

Garrett Park has been divided by controversy before. We have always been an opinionated and sometimes contentious lot. But the divisions in the town have always been civil—and transient. Once an issue is settled, and never to everybody's satisfaction, the town traditionally goes back to being a community; antagonists go back to being neighbors, respecting each others' often divergent views.

But we have never before, in my memory, been riven by *faction*.

In his influential Tenth Federalist Paper, James Madison defined a faction as "... a number of citizens, whether amounting to a majority or minority of the whole, who are united and actuated by some common impulse of passion, or of interest, adverse to the rights of other citizens, or to the permanent and aggregate interests of the community." He regarded faction as detrimental to the orderly processes of democratic self-government.

I would suggest that just such a faction now exists in Garrett Park, namely those advocates of county control who have twice failed to overturn Garrett Park's local-control open space ordinance—first through a lawsuit and then by referendum. They now seek to become a Town Council majority and try again what they have already failed twice to achieve. Their faction has no other reason for being.

I urge the voters of the town to reject, in the coming Town Council election, any effort by candidates opposed to local control (which has been twice endorsed by citizen referendum) to dominate the Council, steer the work of the Land Use Task Force to their own liking, and effect a division in town that may not be soon or easily healed.

I am greatly concerned that their success would indeed be "adverse to the rights of other citizens, or to the permanent and aggregate interests of the community."

Warren Kornberg

Good Governance

It must have struck many as ironic that incumbent candidate Jack Mandel cited *trust* as the biggest issue in the upcoming Garrett Park election. Mr. Mandel is serving on the Council that spent at least \$200,000 defending the town's "practice" in a law suit regarding land use. The "practice" did not adhere to the town's then existing written ordinance, and a judge ruled that even under the guise of combined setback terminology the town lacked the authority (at the time of enactment) to regulate lot coverage, as it was, in fact, doing. Before this decision, Mr. Mandel sponsored and voted for an ordinance that was intended to be a legislative fix that would nullify the lawsuit before a judge could rule on it. That ordinance occasioned the recent referendum, which along with the handling of the lawsuit, has divided the town.

The tumult of the past year, as unpleasant as it has been, cannot help but be part of the election equation; it is unrealistic and not productive to suggest otherwise. While land use and the other issues cited in the *Gazette* article are important, voters should be focused on what is fundamental. *Good Governance*. It is central to how well the business of the town is conducted. When not done well, it eventually produces any number of undesirable consequences. Mr. Mandel's observation that "people think their neighbors are doing things behind their back" is but one illustration of the point.

It is hoped that new and future members of the council will give thoughtful consideration to the various characteristics of good governance—adherence to the rule of law (impartially applied), transparency (in word and deed), clarity of regulations and procedures, judicious management of town affairs, and prudent management of finances. It would be a much appreciated service to the people of Garrett Park.

Anne Martin

GROSVENOR MARKET

9-9 MONDAY-SATURDAY
9-7 SUNDAY

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Jobs List

Since we had so few responders to our summer jobs list, the teens listed will have an opportunity to make a lot of money!

[See print edition for information]

If anyone else, 13 years old and up (adults too), would like to be on this list, please get in touch with Mary Moyer, and we'll print another list next month.

Letter from the Mayor

This month's letter will be brief—beginning and ending my message by urging you to vote in the election on May 4 to elect three members to the Town Council. A contested election is the best way to make your voice heard in local government—don't miss this opportunity to register your choice. We owe a debt of thanks to all the candidates who have volunteered to run for office—incumbent Jack Mandel, Marian Green, Pam Morgan, Chris Petito, and Phil Schulp. Being on the Council is a significant commitment of time and energy. Now let's do our part by voting on May 4.

A hearty note of appreciation to the “retiring” members of the Council, Solange Hansen and Chuck Berry. We are grateful for their service to the town. Solange has generously agreed to continue as the town's representative to the Montgomery County committee for the observance of Martin Luther King Day. (The town is still looking for an additional representative; please contact the Town Office if you are interested.)

Development of the White Flint Sector Plan continues at the County Planning Board. Through the efforts of Jack Mandel, Randy Auerbach, and Kevin Pope, the town has monitored and participated in various aspects of the initial planning. We will be taking an increasing role in staying abreast of proposals and making the town's views

heard. Citizens Associations from a number of residential communities affected by potential development at White Flint, including our neighbors in Garrett Park Estates and White Flint Park, have banded together to form a Coalition of Citizens Associations; they expect to have a major role in the remaining steps as the White Flint Sector Plan is finalized. I look forward to working with the Garrett Park Citizens Association to encourage its participation in the Coalition and otherwise create opportunities to have Garrett Park's views reflected in the planning process.

The rebuilding of Strathmore Avenue that occurred several years ago has been a significant success, with noticeable traffic calming and enhanced safety. The town is, however, very aware of the serious potholes that have plagued a stretch of the roadway for too long; prior efforts to remedy the situation have resulted only in hasty patches that were ineffectual in addressing the underlying problem. We have redoubled efforts with the State Highway Administration to obtain a high-quality, lasting repair to the roadway.

On Sunday afternoon, May 3, from 3 to 5 pm, please join the candidates and your neighbors for a pre-election lawn party at the mayor's garden, 4501 Clermont Place (contributions of finger foods are welcome). Then, on Monday, don't forget to *vote!*

Chris Keller

Celebrate “Green Day”

On Saturday, May 9, from 10 am to 1 pm, come to a *free* earth-friendly and fun-filled event for the entire family. Sponsored by the towns of Kensington and Garrett Park, along with Garrett Park's Conservation Action Network, activities will take place in and around the Kensington Town Hall (the old armory), 3710 Mitchell Street, Kensington. Visit www.tok.md.gov for more information.

- Fight identity theft! Residents may bring up to four boxes of papers for *free* shredding at the Shred-It Truck.
- Have some scrap metal or fabric to recycle? Dump it in our truck!
- See *free* demonstrations and presentations on home efficiency, green living, home energy audits, solar photovoltaics, green remodeling and building, and more.
- Patronize vendors and exhibits showcasing green products, services, and ideas to help save money and our natural resources.
- Enjoy *free* fun activities for the kids, including seedling plantings and crafts (make a gift for Mother's Day on Sunday).
- See a children's art show!

- Learn more about native plants and herbs from Amazon Herb Company and the Master Gardeners.
- Take advantage of *free* giveaways: compost bins, lawn & leaf bags, trash bags, seeds.
- Learn where you can buy locally produced food.
- Enjoy entertainment throughout the event!

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Candidates' Statements

Marian Green

Our town is more than land and houses. It is a complex society, albeit small, in which the past and the actions of those who came before us influence what we expect of the town and what we do to protect it. Town history is not destiny, but it should not be ignored in a rush to acknowledge and accommodate what may be current needs or styles.

Fortunately, we have a governing structure, our municipal government, with which to navigate that intersection where the legacy of the past and the needs of the present meet. Currently we are witnessing that structure at work in the Land Use Task Force.

On the Council, I would support the ongoing and effective actions of the Citizens Association, the Women's Club, and the standing committees of the town. These are the valuable core through which motivated volunteers continue the unique, evolving work of the town.

Further, I would work to encourage respectful communication around our differences. Diversity of architectural style and diversity of opinion are also part of our heritage.

In the past I have been chairperson of the Women's Club and of the Arboretum Committee and served two terms as our representative to the Dr. Martin Luther King Committee.

I want to continue my participation in town affairs by serving on the Town Council. I believe the next period of time will require attention to budget. I've run small businesses, developing program components as well as managing staff and volunteers. I had to master local licensing and federal guidelines. For 20 years I taught at Montgomery College. As an educator of both adults and children, I have learned to listen as well as to speak.

This is what I have to offer. I would be glad to serve.

Jack Mandel

I'm running for a second term on the Garrett Park Town Council. My wife Rana, 16-year-old son Gabe, and I have lived on "Lower Rokeby" since we moved from Northern California at the tail end of the last millennium. I am running again because there is important work to be done, to maintain and enhance Garrett Park's uniqueness as a community.

We define Garrett Park with actions taken—and not taken. Garrett Park is not just houses and lawns and gardens and roadways and parks; it is the sum of individual effort and care, creating a place where "value" is much more than the worth of a property, where diversity has meaning, and where people of all ages are welcomed and their talents appreciated.

There is also the simple, inescapable fact that the community around us is changing, and Garrett Park must decide what to embrace and what to protect. I believe we as a community must do the following:

- Work with the Garrett Park Citizens Association and adjoining communities to consider, both individually and collectively, how to respond to impending White Flint development efforts, including the possibility that Garrett Park's MARC station might be relocated.
- Work with the Garrett Park Land Use Task Force and introduce more clarified rules for all land use issues, making sure all the town has an opportunity to understand and weigh in before final decisions are made.
- Work to create a Garrett Park community garden.
- Wisely pursue the future of the Garrett Park Nursery School property, carefully considering costs and who will bear them; how to integrate the nursery school with a remodeled Garrett Park Elementary School; and budgeting for the property, including insurance and liability issues.
- Improve the integration of Garrett Park's Capital Improvement Plan and its planning process.
- Consider ways to anticipate, articulate, and meet the needs of our town's senior citizens, especially in times of economic hardship.
- Contemplate ways to reduce our town's carbon footprint at minimal or no cost.
- Pursue, wherever possible, any stimulus funds.
- Address these objectives while confronting an estimated 9 percent decrease in Fiscal Year 2010 revenues and probable worse financial picture in FY11.

These are important issues and considerations. They are things we must discuss and debate, in



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the interest of a better town. What isn't worthwhile, I believe, is arguing over old grudges, lawsuits, and complaints. Tomorrow simply matters too much.

Here are some things I've done in town since moving here:

- Secretary, Garrett Park Citizens Association, 2002–03
- VP/Co-President, Garrett Park Citizens Association, 2004–05
- Created and coordinated Luminaria Night, 2005
- Created the idea for the brick patio outside the Post Office and coordinated brick sales, design, and installation, 2004–05.
- Started the Garrett Park Film Society, 2002—now in its seventh successful year.
- Ad hoc participant in White Flint development efforts, 2007–09
- Garrett Park Town Council, 2007–09

Professionally, I manage a large, ambitious health data sharing project between the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense. It is intensely satisfying, in that I use the full gamut of my management, interpersonal, and collaborative skills for a purpose that is absolutely the right thing to do and is at the edges of innovation in health information technology.

I'd appreciate your vote on May 4.

Pam Morgan

Like many in town, I have been concerned about the tenor of the discussion and the levels of angst preoccupying Garrett Parkers recently. I have been surprised by the heated polarization that surged while I followed my alternative approach of investigating town and county ordinances and analyzing subtle nuances on the same issues.

This is the context in which I am running for the Town Council. I believe that good communication and good governance make good neighbors. I believe that, above all else, Garrett Park is a neighborhood and a community in which we should feel comfortable with our neighbors instead of confrontational. My goals as a Town Councilmember will be (1) to communicate the issues, the options, and the facts with full and open transparency, and (2) to reach consensus for balanced governance that emerges from careful consideration of multiple points of view.

I believe that communication of substantive information will encourage residents to be interested and involved in issues, replacing both complacency and the ardor of the vigilant. I believe that the polarized perceptions of unwanted consequences can be replaced with informed, balanced expectations when Town Councilmembers participate in open discussions that analyze all

sides of an issue and not merely persuade constituents to accept one prevailing point of view. I commit to respond to all requests for information and to provide explanations of my decisions and votes if I am elected. I will work with other Town Councilmembers and town staff to provide timely, complete information in support of open and transparent government.

I believe that to achieve good governance it is critical to align the practices of town government with the written law. One benefit I have drawn from the town's recent issues is the extensive reading I have done of Garrett Park's Code of Ordinances and of the county and state laws under which Garrett Park governs itself. I have discussed these with past town Mayors and Councilmembers. I have sought and received legal advice, including from Montgomery County's People's Counsel on one critical issue.

I am not alone in observing that gaps have evolved between the town's written Code of Ordinances and the actual practices of the Town Council, staff, and committees. This is not an accusation of individual acts but just a realization that, over time, practices have become institutionalized and diverged from the written law. A tremendous, positive step was taken by the Town Council at the end of April in asserting that in the future the town's Setback Advisory Committee will follow the definitions in Montgomery County's Zoning Ordinance. The town ordinance has for years explicitly required use of these definitions but other practices prevailed, an issue I have raised in the past at Council meetings and in the *Bugle*.

Another area for addressing unintentional gaps was noted by several town residents who observed the discrepancies between the town election ordinance and the actual practices followed during the March referendum: multiple requests were made to revise the town election ordinance at the March Council meeting; town election judges instructed the Town Council regarding wording of ballots and the misuse of public funds for mailing campaign literature. Progress is being made, and I look forward to working with other Councilmembers and listen-

- ◆ 25 years broad real estate experience
- ◆ Over 20 years community service and knowledge of Montgomery County

Who's on your side of the table?™



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ing to constituents to pursue similar fundamental improvements in town governance.

In addition to my detail-oriented approach to situations, I bring a long history of love of Garrett Park to my candidacy. I was born in Garrett Park and graduated from Garrett Park Elementary School with a great foundation that lead to undergraduate and graduate degrees in math and physics. My parents (George and Norah Payne) moved here in 1941, were active participants in town government and organizations, and loved living here until their deaths. Two of my four children were born in Garrett Park, and all have benefited from growing up in a close community. In 2005 I retired from a 23-year career with IBM where as a Project Executive I worked with federal government agencies managing multimillion-dollar projects with responsibility for systems and solution definition, budget management, and implementation schedule. My training and professional experience qualify me to contribute effectively to manage the town's annual budget, capital plan, and financial challenges.

My long history in Garrett Park has taught me that development has been constant here. I have watched the town grow from 140 homes in 1948 to 364 homes in 2009. Despite the obvious decrease in open space accompanying this growth, the wonderful resilience, community spirit, and independence that make Garrett Park a special place to live have not been altered by these decades of change. Sadly, Garrett Park's special character now faces a graver risk from growing polarization, mistrust, and confrontation. I believe this risk can largely be mitigated by good communication and good governance, which is my primary reason for running for Town Council.

Finally, it is my experience that a harmonious neighborhood thrives when we all volunteer to help our community and reach out to better know our neighbors, both old and new. I served as Co-President of the Citizens Association in 1996 and 1997, and more recently rejoined the Citizens Association Officers Board in January 2007, and in a second term served as Treasurer throughout 2008. I have made many new friends and heard new perspectives on town issues while also serving as Recording Secretary of the Women's Club from December 2007 to the present. I volunteered to be a member of the Land Use Task Force, which has just started discussions on complex topics such as new constraints on height and bulk of houses as well as consideration of an appeals process. In the wider community, I have served as a Montgomery County election judge for several years.

I look forward to helping restore Garrett Park's flourishing and harmonious neighborhood spirit if elected to the Town Council. I hope you will contact me with your issues and concerns. I ask for your vote on May 4 so that I may support this wonderful community with good communication and good governance.

Chris Petito

I am running for Town Council because I believe in local self-government and civic participation and would like to use my talents and experience to help our town to continue to thrive. I have lived in Garrett Park for almost 13 years with my wife Sue and our three children, Lucia (19), Chris (17), and Billy (13). We live at the north end of Rokeby Avenue. We have enjoyed living in Garrett Park, the small town atmosphere, and the friendly and interesting neighbors.

I have practiced law in the public and private sectors for over 25 years. I currently am a partner with a law firm in the District, but in the past I was an Assistant Regional Administrator in the enforcement group in the SEC's New York office.

Over my legal career, I have developed practical negotiating and problem solving skills that equip me to become an effective member of the Town Council. Transactions on which I work often involve issues that must be resolved to the parties' mutual satisfaction for their relationship to go forward successfully. Accomplishing this requires that I listen carefully and respectfully to both my client and to the other party, analyze potential courses of action, identify possible risks, and work with my clients to find common ground with the other party, so that they can reach practical solutions that meet my clients' goals and are acceptable to all parties. I would bring these same skills to the issues that come before the Town Council for resolution.

Our town faces serious issues over the next few years. One important issue, but not the only important issue, is the future of local zoning in Garrett Park. The recent referendum on our town's zoning ordinance was hotly contested. Our town has now established a Land Use Task Force, to consider the future of the zoning ordinance.

Personally, I was first attracted to Garrett Park by its distinctive look and feel—the mix of housing types, greenery, and open spaces. I think that our town owes its physical attraction in considerable part to the existing zoning requirements, and feel strongly that we should retain control over our town's zoning.

However, zoning requirements can and should be changed if we want something different. The Land Use Task Force provides us with an opportunity to make known our wishes as to how we want our town to look and to evolve over the coming years. If elected, I would look to the Task Force recommendations for guidance on the substantive standards to guide land use decisions.

I also hope that as a Town Councilmember I would be able to foster a more tolerant and respectful dialogue on this subject. I understand that reasonable people can and do disagree. However, all of us, whatever our personal views, have the best interests of our town at heart. Keeping that always in mind, I hope that we can come

together as neighbors to find common ground on this issue.

Whatever the substantive zoning standards, it is equally, perhaps more, important that the applicable rules be clearly stated and readily available and that the process for applying them be open and predictable. If elected, I pledge to try to make the permitting and variance process open and transparent, so that, when people apply for a permit or a variance, to the extent possible they will know what to expect and will feel that they were given a full, fair and respectful hearing.

Another, potentially even more important, issue is the effect of the recession on Garrett Park's finances. The current budget for FY 2010 shows that Garrett Park's share of income tax revenues is expected to be down by 50 percent from the FY 2008 budget. Property tax revenues also are declining. If the actual receipts this year fall short of the budget estimates, we will need to cut services or spend reserves to balance the town budget. Moreover, while we hope that the economy will recover soon, if it does not and town revenues continue to decline, we will need to make difficult longer term decisions on the types and level of services that the town can or wishes to maintain. If elected, I will work to keep the town's finances on a sound footing and maintain the services needed to keep our town an attractive place to live.

In the past, I have participated in town affairs as the town representative to the board of the Garrett Park Swimming Pool Association. I also have participated in the musicale sponsored by the Garrett Park Women's Club and organized by my wife Sue as a fund raiser for a music scholarship for a Garrett Park Elementary School student. I would now like to help our town address the important issues facing it in the next two years and work towards maintaining our town's wooded environment and friendly, small-town feel, by serving on the Town Council. Please vote for me on May 4.

Phil Schulp

Vote for me to represent your voice as Garrett Park Councilmember.

The past year has been tough, both for Garrett Park and for the nation. Various issues served to divide residents, but it is now time to work together. That's why I am running for a seat on the Council. First, let me tell you a little about myself.

I was born in Rochester, New York. In spring 2004, my wife Jean Horan, daughter Gianna, and I found the perfect house—one that borders the train tracks. I am an electrical engineer and work for an international firm that builds passenger railroad cars. I love everything about trains. I even owned a locomotive in my single days.

Rail geography aside, Garrett Park's small-town environment, independent governance, and varied organizations were appealing. Both Jean and I had been involved in serving on condominium boards, and I was a volunteer fire fighter for 10 years. The idea that I might play a small part in building a better town was a key motivator in relocating to Garrett Park. Since we lived next to the pool, we joined immediately. We enrolled Gianna in the Garrett Park Cooperative Nursery School. She is now a kindergartner at GPES. Along with other spouses, I became a supporter of Women's Club activities (doing logistical tasks for the Progressive Dinner and Attic in the Street). I also began attending monthly Town Council meetings. Sometimes, I was the only resident in the audience. My expertise is in analysis and troubleshooting, so I could appreciate the issues that the Council faced during the Strathmore Avenue renovation and discussions about handling traffic congestion near Penn Place. I also came to realize that the problems the town faced were not so different from those we tackled at our condominium.

I am ready to more actively participate by serving on the Council as your voice. The past year's events have severely impacted the town's finances. The Council has a lot of tough decisions ahead. *I will work for you to find practical, cost-effective solutions* to these challenges:

- The financial state, as a result of the major losses in town reserves
- The impact of development on Rockville Pike (particularly at White Flint)
- The future of the Garrett Park Community Center (home of the Nursery School)
- The issues seniors face related to aging in place
- Zoning regulations
- Living "greener"
- The growing crime rate around us

We've made some progress already. I was proud to help lead the discussion that influenced Mayor Keller to convene the Land Use Task Force, of which I am a member. But we have a long way to go. And it won't be easy, given the current economic environment. That's why we'll have to set priorities and make tough choices. Most important, as your Councilmember, I will *seek your input and encourage you to join me at Council meetings with the goal of strengthening our community*. The ways of doing business as usual must change.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to share your views on how to make Garrett Park a better place to live.

Allow me to be your voice on the Town Council. I look forward to working on your behalf. Thank you for your vote on Monday, May 4.